

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members. I was ready to support Senator Chambers amendment a minute ago. I don't want to lose the funds. Yet, I supported the 55 mile an hour speed limit when we voted on it before. Believe me, as you all know, it is a hazard to drive on the highway at 55 miles an hour. I tried to comply and it is dangerous. No one else drives that speed, so I drive faster, not because I particularly want to. I do believe that we will save energy if everyone complied, but there is not the compliance. Frankly, right now I'm on the fence after hearing what Senator Kremer said.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. I wish that Senator Kremer had had direct contact with somebody from Washington, instead of going through the Department here because this Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Governor's office had misrepresented some statements to the Legislature on a proposal I had before which would say that if you went ten miles over the limit the only punishment could be a ten dollar fine, no points off your license, and so forth. Well, they had information that that would put Nebraska out of compliance. There was no such information. Senator Kremer, what the message may have been is that these programs may be denied money. When you get information secondhand from an individual or a department that has an interest in keeping the situation as it is they'll hedge on a word here and there. They might say there was a breakdown in communication. But there is a difference between may and shall. There was a situation, I say again, with the helmet bill where they said money would be withheld if the state did not enact the motorcycle helmet bill. California did not do it. I told the Nebraskans we don't have to do it, but they were afraid and they were put in fear by information that was improperly phrased from the federal government. So my position would be that we should go ahead and adopt this particular amendment. If we adopt the amendment then we have a bill which threatens to put Nebraska out of compliance with the dictate of the federal government. At that time I think somebody in Washington might be more willing to correspond directly with Senator Kremer, and he wouldn't have to go through the Department or the Governor's office, or anyplace else. So let us put this amendment on. If you get too shaky legged as it moves across the floor, you can act on it at Select File. But put the amendment on the bill now. Then we can compel somebody in Washington to tell us something concrete. As a matter of fact, I received some information on that provision that I was trying to push, from a U.S. Senator who said that the federal government is totally incapable of enforcing any traffic laws in any state because they don't have the officers to enforce traffic regulations. The only agency that can enforce a traffic law is the state where the traffic law exists. So if somebody told Senator Kremer that the federal government is going to strictly enforce the traffic law of 55 miles, somebody told him a lie. The reason I say it is a lie is because whoever that person is knows better than that. The FBI does not enforce traffic laws. The CIA does not enforce traffic laws. Alcohol and Tobacco do not enforce traffic laws. The Internal Revenue Service does not enforce, so what agency of the federal government does? Not one, no, not one. So put the amendment on the bill and let us then see what will be given to us in terms of specific information directed to Senator Kremer as Chairman